

WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.**ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST*****Purpose of checklist:***

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Blunt / Hamerski Harvest

2. Name, address and phone number of applicant:

1) **William A. and Patsey A. Blunt
30714 Lyman Hamilton Hwy.
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284
360/826-3389**

2) **Anthony G. Hamerski
30341 State Route 20
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284
360/826-3454**

3. Name, address and phone number of contact person:

same

4. Date checklist prepared:

September 7, 2004; amended November 15, 2004

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington Department of Natural Resources

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

Operations likely to occur summer, 2005.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

No plans for future additions: no conversion to non-forestry use is proposed. Following reforestation, it is anticipated that chemical and/or mechanical brush control will be practiced as needed for up to eight years. Landowner will comply with statutory road maintenance requirements in WAC 222-24-050, -051, and -052. Both landowners intend to apply for compensation through the Forest Riparian Easement Program.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

Forest Practice Application 2802481, approved April 8, 1999, was located on a portion of the subject property. Forest Practice Application 2807191, withdrawn 10/15/04 at the request of WDNR, was substantively identical to the current proposal; this proposal includes minor changes to wording in application materials plus supplemental maps, as requested by WDNR.

WDNR (1994) Hansen Watershed Analysis

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

None known

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

**Class IV-Special Forest Practices Application, to be issued by Washington Department of Natural Resources.
Burn Permit, to be issued by Washington Department of Natural Resources.**

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

Project includes the harvest of approximately 745 MBF of merchantable trees from approximately 46 acres in 11 units of an approximately 160 acre tract. This is a cooperative project involving the adjoining properties of two landowners. Site preparation commensurate with practice typical of industrial forestland, consisting of removal and piling of harvest debris and slash, will be conducted. Slash piles will be burned in accordance with applicable regulations and WDNR permit conditions. Following burning, the entire harvest area will be replanted or allowed to naturally regenerate (hardwood sites) in conformance with WDNR reforestation requirements. Planting will most likely be scheduled for the first season following completion of site preparation.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

No situs address. Proposal is on portions of the East ½ of the Southwest ¼ and the West ½ of the Southeast ¼ of Section 7, Township 35 North, Range 6 East, W.M., Skagit County, Washington. See Forest Practice Activity Map for greater detail. See Vicinity Map.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous,
other

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

Steepest slopes in the project areas range from level to locally greater than 100 %. Average slopes in the project area are 50 to 70%.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

Soils underlying the forested portions of the property are classified as Dystric Xerorthents and Vanzandt very gravelly loams (map units 50 and 153, respectively, on Sheet No. 23, USDA Soil Conservation Service (1989) Soil Survey of Skagit County Area, Washington).

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

There are surface indications of unstable soils and previous episodes of mass wasting in the project area. Approximately 65 acres of the project area have been excluded from harvest to mitigate for concerns in WAC 222-16-050 (1) (d) and the Hansen Watershed Analysis. A Geotechnical Report addressing this issue is attached to this checklist.

- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Cut and fill in association with road construction is proposed. Native soils will be used.

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Significant surface erosion is not anticipated as a result of the project.

- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

None

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

Unharvested buffers in riparian areas and potentially unstable slopes are proposed.

2. Air

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Negligible emissions are anticipated during harvesting activity. Site preparation could result in short term particulate emissions (dust). There will be some wood smoke emitted during the slash pile burning; timing, rate, and quantity of wood smoke to be determined by Burning Permit conditions. There will be no emissions from the completed project.

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

None identified

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

Slash piles will be burned in accordance with applicable regulations and WDNR permit conditions.

3. Water

- a. Surface:

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

There are several typed surface waters within the project area including Childs Creek and tributaries. Some portions are fish-bearing. See Forest Practice Application for greater detail on locations and ratings.

A depressional, Non-Forested Wetland is located in the vicinity of the project area, off-site to the south. Streams in the project area may have a seasonal connection to these wetlands. See Forest Practice Application for greater detail on locations and ratings.

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Riparian buffers have been retained adjacent to all surface waters. Hanging cables across streams, yarding across a Type 3 stream at up to two locations, reinstallation of a permanent bridge across Childs Creek, and a new installation of a permanent bridge are proposed. See Forest Practice Application for detail.

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

No placement or removal of fill will occur in surface waters or wetlands.

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

No

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

There will be no direct discharges of waste materials to surface waters.

b. Ground:

- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

See attached Geotechnical Report for a detailed discussion of hydrology and groundwater issues.

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

None

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

See attached Geotechnical Report for a discussion of hydrology and groundwater issues.

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

See attached Geotechnical Report for a discussion of mass wasting processes.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

Buffer areas will minimize disturbance of near-riparian areas and thus reduce potential of sediment mobilization and delivery.

See also attached Geotechnical Report for a discussion of mitigation measures.

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

- ☒ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
☒ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
☒ shrubs
☐ grass
☒ pasture
☐ crop or grain
☒ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
☐ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
☐ other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Approximately 755 MBF of standing timber will be removed.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

None known

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

Harvest area will be replanted with Douglas fir and/or red cedar in the first season following site preparation.

5. Animals

- a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

The site is within the mapped Puget Sound Chinook ESU range, but no suitable habitat has been excluded from the harvest area.

No other Priority Habitats and Species regulated under WAC 222 are known in the vicinity of the project area.

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

This site, as well as most of the West Coast, is located on the Pacific Flyway migratory route.

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

Compliance with applicable leave tree and other provisions of WAC 222.

6. Energy and natural resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Fuel for the operation of heavy equipment.

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties?
If so, generally describe.

No.

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal?
List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

None.

7. Environmental health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal?
If so, describe.

No.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

No special emergency service other than those already available will be required.

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

None are necessary.

b. Noise

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

None.

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

The project will result in short term increase in noise from heavy equipment during operating hours.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

Operation of equipment will be limited to hours prescribed under Washington State regulations.

8. Land and shoreline use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

Mixed forestland, residential, and agricultural uses. Adjacent properties are similar.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

Other portions of the property are used for pasture and agricultural uses.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

The Hamerski property contains the landowner's residence and several outbuildings. These are located outside the proposed harvest area.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

The project area is zoned Rural.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

The project area is designated Secondary Forest-NRL and Rural Resource.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Not applicable.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

None.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

Approximately 10 people will be employed to complete the forest practice. After the activities under this forest practice application are completed, forestry workers will visit the site periodically to perform plantation maintenance activities to be scheduled for out-years.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

None.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

None.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

The proposal is consistent with existing land use designations.

9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

None are proposed.

10. Aesthetics

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

No structures are proposed.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

A portion of the proposed harvest area is visible from nearby State Route 20.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

Over 60 % of the forested area within the project planning area has been retained in the form of buffers and green-belt areas. This should serve to reduce potential adverse aesthetic impacts resulting from the timber harvest.

11. Light and glare

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

None.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

No.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

No.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

None are proposed.

12. Recreation

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

None known.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

None.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

None.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

No listed sites known within the project area.

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

None known.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

None.

14. Transportation

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

The subject property is served by private gravel roads tributary to Prevedal Road and State Route 20.

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

The site is not currently served by public transit, though SKAT mass transit routes exist on State Route 20.

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

No parking will be developed other than short term unimproved parking areas for forestry workers. No parking will be eliminated.

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

No.

- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

No.

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

There will be approximately 200 log truck loads generated by the project. Timber will likely be shipped over a several week period.

- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

None

15. Public services

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No. Existing services are adequate to serve the short term needs of the project.

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

None

16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

None

- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

None

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature:

By: John D. Gold, paid preparer for applicant
John Gold & Co., Consulting Foresters
619 Commercial Avenue, Suite 25
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Date Submitted: 11/15/09